



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Racine County

### **County characteristics**

- 333 sq. miles.
- East 1/3 urban; middle 1/3 former prairie/wetland, now farmland; west 1/3 former prairie/wetland with lakes and streams now farmland and expanding urban area
- Experiencing rapid residential growth due to its proximity to Milwaukee and Chicago.
- There are 192,284 residents in Racine County.



### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 2572 state owned acres open to hunting
- 4260 acres of water managed by DNR staff, including 21 lakes, 13 streams, and 6 urban fishing ponds.

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

- Wildlife: 1 Biologist, 1 Technician; Fisheries: 1 Biologist, 1 Technician; 3 Wardens, 1 Recreational Safety Warden.
- Office: 9531 Rayne Road, Sturtevant, 53177
- Staff also serves portions of Kenosha County.

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Home of Root River Steelhead Facility, major egg-taking facility for trout and salmon built and maintained in cooperation with federal, municipal and Racine Salmon Unlimited. The facility operates up to seven months each year. In addition, local clubs helped finance habitat improvement projects on the Root River.
- Perform habitat management such as prescribed burning, brushing, water level management and food plots to restore, enhance and maintain varied habitat for public lands.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting access sites and maintaining parking areas.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, and deer.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and West Nile Virus.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.



### *Activities continued...*

- Wardens investigated over 200 complaints of fishing, hunting, and trapping violations and made over 250 arrests for Fish and Game violations in 2004.
- Evaluate proposed transportation and development projects for environmental impacts and mitigate damage to wildlife and habitats.
- Conduct fish surveys to evaluate fish stocking programs and fishing regulations, and also track changes in fish communities.
- Promote angler and fishery resource education programs through participation in the Waterford Waterways Management District Pontoon Classroom, Eagle Lake Property Owners Association Lake Fair, and Browns Lake Advisory Committee meetings.
- Rehabilitate fish communities overrun with rough fish.

## **Racine County Conservation Snapshots**

- 5 Deer and Turkey registration stations
- Over 39,000 Trout and Salmon Harvested from Lake Michigan annually
- Home Port for 24 Lake Michigan Charter Boats



## **Fish and Wildlife Stocking Summary**

- 2 Public Hunting Grounds stocked with pheasants.
- In 2003 and 2004 stocked 3 lakes, 2 streams, and 6 urban fishing ponds with 120,663 walleyes, 9,040 rainbow trout, and 1,690 brown trout.
- Over 422,000 trout and salmon stocked annually in Racine County waters in support of the Lake Michigan Sport Fishery

## **County Success Stories**

- Partnered with Racine County Conservation League and the National Wild Turkey Federation to acquire a 28-acre wooded upland parcel on the Honey Creek Wildlife Area, providing habitat for wildlife and recreation land for the public.
- Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Project restored a high quality sport fishery in a lake that had become infested with carp.

## **Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities**

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

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